

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 PM-09 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

AGR-20 DOTE-00 RSR-01 CU-04 /201 W

----- 073662

R 010440 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9554

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT BG

SUBJ: MUJIB GETS TOUGH IN

1. OVER PAST WEEKEND, BDG HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF
INTENSIFYING ASSAULT ON MOST PRESSING OF PROBLEMS
FACING COUNTRY. STRAWS IN WIND INCLUDE: A) STATE-
MENT BY MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE THAT
THEY HAD DISCOVERED LARGE NUMBER OF REGISTERED
DEALERSHIPS AND INDUSTRIAL UNITS NOT ACTUALLY
ENGAGING IN BUSINESS, BUT EXISTING SOLELY IN
ORDER PERMIT OWNERS PURCHASE IMPORT LICENSES
AND CERTAIN PERMITS WHICH OWNERS THEN RESOLD AT
PROFIT TO BONA FIDE BUSINESSMEN. THESE
STATEMENTS FOLLOWED BY ORDER FROM PRIMIN FOR
THOROUGH SCRUTINY OF LIST OF LICENSEES/ PERMIT
HOLDERS IN ORDER ROOT OUT " FAKE BUSINESSMEN";
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B) PRIMIN'S ORDER THAT YARN CURRENTLY STOCKPILED BY BANGLADESH SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION BE DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY ON "EMERGENCY BASIS" TO "GENUINE WEAVERS"; C) APRIL 29 PRESS REPORTS THAT BDG INTENDS DEPLOY RAKKHI BAHINI AND RESERVE POLICE IN NEW ANTI- MISCREANT DRIVE, BEGINNING MAY 9. FYI DRIVE NOT BEGINNING AT ONCE AS SECURITY FORCES NOW NEEDED MAINTAIN ORDER AT ACADEMIC EXAMS CURRENTLY BEING HELD. END FYI; D) DECISION BY PRIMIN BRING "NEW BLOOD" INTO ADMINISTRATION, EXEMPLIFIED BY APPOINTMENT EMBASSY SECOND- RANKING POLITICAL FSL AS CHAIRMAN, BANGLADESH ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION.

2. COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST MUJIB SEEKS MORE THAN PUBLICITY THIS TIME. HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN THAT LICENSING SYSTEM BEING ABUSED, GENERALLY BY AWAMI LEAGUERS AND THEIR FRIENDS; NONETHELESS, FACT THAT GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES PROBLEM AT ALL IS HOPEFUL SIGN SUGGESTING SITUATION MAY BE CORRECTED. LIKEWISE, WEAVERS' DIFFICULTIES WELL- KNOWN, BUT THIS IS FIRST VIGOROUS BDG RESPONSE TO PROBLEM. APPOINTMENT FRESH FACES IN ADMINISTRATION INDICATE MUJIB GENUINELY HOPES IMPROVE PERFORMANCE CIVIL SERVICE. WHILE NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER FUTURE CRITICISM OF BUREAUCRACY WILL BE USED DIVERT ATTENTION FROM AL FAILINGS, THERE DOES APPEAR DEFINITE INTENTION ON PRIMIN'S PART COME TO GRIPS WITH DIFFICULTIES HE FACES.

NEWBERRY

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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